

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information vending apparatus comprising:

accumulation means for accumulating information for sale;

usage condition generating means for generating usage conditions in response to a purchase selection of the information for sale;

encryption means for encrypting said purchase selection;

encryption key generating means for generating a cryptographic key which decrypts said purchase selection;

authentication means for authenticating a portable recording medium directly or indirectly loaded on said information vending apparatus to determine if the portable recording medium is capable of supporting a license management capability for reproducing the purchase selection in accordance with the usage conditions prior to writing a purchase selection thereto; and,

writing means for writing said purchase selection along with said usage conditions for said license management capability and said cryptographic key to said portable recording medium upon authentication[.];

wherein said portable recording medium is a memory device configured to be loaded to a player device for reproduction of the information for sale.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The information vending apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

communication means for communicating with a reproduction unit for reproducing said purchase selection recorded on said portable recording medium;

wherein said authentication means further authenticates said reproduction unit when said communication means makes communication with said reproduction unit; and

said writing means writes said purchase selection to said portable recording medium through said reproduction unit along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The information vending apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said reproduction unit is a portable device and said portable medium being detachably loaded on said portable device.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The information vending apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said communication means communicates with said reproduction unit which reproduces said purchase selection recorded on said portable recording medium integrally disposed on said reproduction unit; and

said writing means writes said purchase selection recorded on said portable recording medium integrally disposed on said reproduction unit along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The information vending apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said reproduction unit is a portable device and integrally arranged on said portable device.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The information vending apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a receiving means for receiving said information for sale supplied through a predetermined transmission path;

wherein said accumulation means accumulates said information received by said receiving means.

Claim 7 (Original): The information vending apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said transmission path is the Internet, said information is supplied via the Internet to a server unit, and said information is received from said server unit to be stored in said accumulation means.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The information vending apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said usage condition generating means generates said usage conditions which are employed by said reproduction unit which reproduces said purchase selection recorded on said portable recording medium, and said encryption means encrypts said information for sale by use of an algorithm which allows said reproduction unit to decrypt said information for sale.

Claim 9 (Original): The information vending apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information for sale includes at least one of program, voice, music, still picture, moving picture, text data.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An information vending method comprising the steps of:

accumulating information for sale;
generating usage conditions for said information for sale in response to a purchase selection of information for sale;
encrypting said purchase selection;

generating a cryptographic key which decrypts said information for sale which is encrypted;

authenticating a portable recording medium loaded on said information vending apparatus in one of direct and indirect manners to determine if the portable recording medium is capable of supporting a license management capability for reproducing the purchase selection in accordance with the usage conditions prior to writing a purchase selection thereto; and

writing said purchase selection to said portable recording medium upon authentication along with said usage conditions for said license management capability and said cryptographic key[.];

wherein said portable recording medium is a memory device configured to be loaded to a player device for reproduction of the information for sale.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The information vending method according to claim 10, further comprising:

communicating with a reproduction unit for reproducing said purchase selection recorded on said portable recording medium;

wherein in said authentication step, said reproduction unit is further authenticated when in said communication step said reproduction unit is communicated; and

in said writing step, said encrypted information for sale along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key are written to said portable recording medium through said reproduction unit.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The information vending method according to claim 11, wherein said reproduction unit is a portable device and said portable medium being detachably loaded on said portable device.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The information vending method according to claim 11, wherein in said communication step, said reproduction unit which reproduces said purchase selection recorded on said portable recording medium integrally disposed on said reproduction unit is communicated; and

in said writing step, said purchase selection along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key are written to said portable recording medium integrally disposed on said reproduction unit.

Claim 14 (Original): The information vending method according to claim 13, wherein said reproduction unit is a portable device and said storage medium is fixedly and integrally arranged on said portable device.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The information vending method according to claim 10, further comprising:

receiving said information for sale supplied through a predetermined transmission path;

wherein in said accumulation step, said information received by said receiving means is accumulated.

Claim 16 (Original): The information vending method according to claim 15,

wherein said transmission path is the Internet, said information is supplied via the Internet to a server unit, and said information is received from said server unit to be stored in said accumulation step.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The information vending method according to claim 10, wherein in said usage condition generating step, said usage conditions which are employed by said reproduction unit which reproduces said purchase selection recorded on said portable recording medium are generated; and

in said encryption step, said purchase selection is accessed by use of an algorithm which allows said reproduction unit to decrypt said purchase selection.

Claim 18 (Original): The information vending method according to claim 10, wherein said information for sale includes at least one of program, voice, music, still picture, moving picture, text data.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium for storing a computer-readable program, said program causing a computer to implement a method comprising:

accumulating information for sale;

generating usage conditions for said information for sale in response to a purchase selection of the information for sale;

encrypting said purchase selection;

generating a cryptographic key which decrypts said purchase selection which is encrypted;

authenticating a portable recording medium loaded on said information vending apparatus in one of direct and indirect manners to determine if the portable recording medium

is capable of supporting a license management capability for reproducing the purchase selection in accordance with the usage conditions prior to writing a purchase selection thereto; and

writing said purchase information to said portable recording medium upon authentication along with said usage conditions for said license management capability and said cryptographic key[.];

wherein said portable recording medium is a memory device configured to be loaded to a player device for reproduction of the information for sale.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): An information vending apparatus comprising:

- an accumulation unit configured to accumulate information for sale;
- a usage condition generating unit configured to provide usage conditions for said information for sale in response to a purchase selection of information for sale;
- an encryption unit configured to encrypt said purchase selection;
- an encryption key generating unit configured to generate a cryptographic key which decrypts said purchase selection;
- an authentication unit configured to authenticate a portable recording medium directly or indirectly loaded on said information vending apparatus to determine if the portable recording medium is capable of supporting a license management capability for reproducing the purchase selection in accordance with the usage conditions prior to writing a purchase selection thereto; and
- a writing unit configured to write said purchase selection to said portable recording medium along with said usage conditions for said license management capability and said cryptographic key upon authentication[.];

wherein said portable recording medium is a memory device configured to be loaded to a player device for reproduction of the information for sale.